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KARNATAKA STATE

KARNATAKA GAZETTEER DEPARTMENT

**DAKSHINA KANNADA
DISTRICT**

(REVISED EDITION)

S. Anees Siraj, K.A.S.

Chief Editor

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA STATE
DAKSHINA KANNADA
DISTRICT

(Revised Edition)

S. Anees Siraj, K.A.S.
Chief Editor

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PREFACE

Dakshina Kannada District, also known as South Kanara or South Canara is a coastal district in the state of Karnataka. It is bordered by Hassan district to the east, Arabian sea to the west, Udupi district to the north and Kasargod district (Kerala) to the south.

Earlier, South Kanara and North Kanara were under the administrative control of Bombay Presidency and were unitedly called Kanara District. In 1860 the district was bifurcated into North Kanara and South Kanara. While North Kanara continued to remain under the administrative control of Bombay Presidency, South Canara was transferred to Madras Presidency.

The first South Canara Manual was published by John Sturrock in 1894 and a year later (1895) Herald A Stuart published the second volume. The first Manual as prepared under the guidance of John Sturrock contains five chapters entitled 1) Political History 2) Physical features 3) People 4) Agriculture and 5) Land revenue. The second volume compiled under the directions of H.A.Stuart in 1895 was a text of Statistics. Four decades later, in 1938, a Statistical Appendix, together with a Supplement to the two District Manuals for South Kanara District was edited by J.F.Hall, I.C.S., and K.N. Krishnaswamy Ayyar. The scope, approach and outlook of these manuals were different, none the less they left a remarkable impression on the readers.

After independence, the Central Gazetteer Unit in consultation with State Units devised a common plan of contents so as to have uniformity and also to enable a wide coverage on various aspects, including the trends of development.

In accordance with this scheme, repatterned series of District Gazetteers were brought out and were published by the State Government. The District Gazetteer of Dakshina Kannada under this scheme was published in 1973 under the supervision of Sri K. Abhishankar, the then Chief Editor. This volume became a comprehensive single source of knowledge about the district and served both to the specialists and general readers.

After completion of the Centrally sponsored scheme of editing and publishing the District Gazetteers that were to be a part of Gazetteer of India, the Department undertook independently publishing of District Gazetteers in Kannada. This was in pursuance of the State Language Policy.

The District Gazetteer of Dakshina Kannada in Kannada was first published during 2007, under the supervision of Sri S.A.Jeelani, Chief Editor.

On the advice of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, the department introduced the scheme of translating the District Gazetteers from Kannada to English. These translations helped many people to understand the concept of Gazetteer and also to benefit from the immense information made available on various aspects. The department has completed the translation of District Gazetteers from Kannada to English of Kodagu, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Bijapur and Mandya districts.

South Kanara District has a distinct entity of its own. It has fascinating natural sceneries, luxurious forests, orchards and gardens, lofty mountain, swift flowing rivers, peaceful valleys, Mangalore Seaport on the west coast, an all weather Port at Panambur, large scale industries and above all a cosmopolitan social atmosphere that helped the District in attaining prosperity. The District has several engineering, medical and other technical institutions of national importance.

The present volume covers several aspects of the district. For easy reference it is divided into seventeen chapters *viz.*, General, History, People, Agriculture and Irrigation, Industries, Banking Trade and Commerce, Transport and Communication, Economic Trends, Revenue and Administration, Law and Order, Other Departments, Local Self Government, Education and Sports, Literature and Culture, Health and Medical Services, Other Social Services and Places of Interest. An attempt is also made to outline the various schemes of Government.

I express my gratitude to Sri Govinda Karjola, Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation, Kannada and Culture and Textile, Sri S.V.Ranganath I.A.S., Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka and Chairman of the Gazetteer Advisory Committee, Sri Ramesh B. Jhalki I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Kannada and Culture and Information, and Sri. B.R. Jayaramaraje Urs I.A.S., previous Secretary of the Department and Members of the Advisory Committee for their valuable guidance and support. I wish to thank Director, Information for providing photographs for the coverpage of this volume.

I also thank Sri S.A.Jagannath, Senior Editor, Sri S.N.Raju, Sri S.Rajendrappa, Sri S.Y.Bettegowda and Smt. M.Nagarathna Editors and their supporting staff for the completion of this volume as scheduled.

I hope this revised edition of the District Gazetteer will serve the needs of research scholars and general readers as a comprehensive source of information about the district.

S. Anees Siraj

Chief Editor

Karnataka Gazetteer Department

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